

(d) how would Government save the people from the harmful effects of their exposure to this radioactive waste material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Indo-US civilian nuclear co-operation

*138. SHRI NANDI YELLIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many member countries of European Union and member countries of Nuclear Suppliers' Group are opposing civilian nuclear cooperation between India and USA;

(b) If so, the complete details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the efforts made/proposed to be made by Government to bring such countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The position of different members of the European Union and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) with regard to civil nuclear cooperation is evolving. While some countries like UK, France and Russia have expressed their support, others are yet to formalise their position. This is an ongoing process.

(c) While the US is working on the NSG to adjust its guidelines to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India, Government has taken up the issue bilaterally with a number of NSG member countries, including during summit level interactions. An Indian delegation made a presentation to the NSG Consultative Group meeting in Vienna in October, 2006. As a result of our efforts, several important countries of the NSG have expressed their understanding for the initiative.

Upgradation of NH-17

*139. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-17 passing through Goa is proposed to be upgraded/widened;